



Caption main travel story

TRAINING GROUND

With the smallest window of the four seasons, fall's motto could easily be "carpe diem." Make the most of nature's brief but colourful blip: Hop a train and travel through fiery foliage with your trusty two-wheeler on board. With bike trains part of the Via roster, it's possible to ride the rails, jump off and head out along nearby trails, be they urban or rural. Seasonal departures (until Oct. 31) are available from Windsor and London, Ont., Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, and Senneterre and Jonquière, Que. The most fabled autumn train trip might be the Montreal-Senneterre journey along a route accessible only by rail. This is also prime time for the Winnipeg-Churchill trip as local polar bear populations converge in the area before heading out on Hudson Bay.

Meanwhile, Via has put a notch in its belt as one of the first transportation companies on the continent to provide WiFi. The next step? On-board entertainment. Seems that one day you might even be able to catch a first-run movie. *Throw Momma From the Train*, anyone? (viarail.ca)



Camera READY

With her work exhibited around the world, Cylla von Tiedemann is arguably Canada's most famous dance photographer. This autumn, for the first time, she is leading trips to Europe. Aspiring photographers can sign up for week-long workshops in Berlin (Oct. 22 to 29) and Majorca (Nov. 5 to 12) to immerse themselves in the art of movement photography and shoot different dancers in multiple locations.

"These courses are designed to help people take pictures spontaneously, and for me to guide them through their creativity with solid technical advice," says von Tiedemann, who was born in Germany and moved to Canada three decades ago. The tours include private encounters with local artists, plus visits to off-the-beaten-track museums, niche galleries and unique restos. "In the end, the trips are based on having a fabulous time, as well as becoming a more skilled photographer," says von Tiedemann. "What better way to explore the world?" Week-long and weekend workshops are also offered in Toronto, Montreal and New York City (photographymoves.com).



IT'S IN THE BAG

Fresh off the assembly line, travel-gadget innovator **Magellan's** has just released its Safe Passage Tote, which it claims will defy thieves. The fabric is reinforced with slash-proof mesh, the handles are kitted out with steel cables, and the corners fold and clip to thwart would-be pickpockets. A carabiner can attach the bag to an immobile object, such as your luggage handle. Lightweight with a zippered compartment and tons of pockets for your phone, MP3 player, glasses, wallet and passport, your friends won't believe Kate Spade didn't have a hand in the design of this tote, which also cocoons your favourite tablet. If all that weren't enough, it also comes with a detachable LED flashlight for those late nights on the Rive Gauche (magellans.com).